The Parentage of John Pegoda, Sr.

Unlike most of the "parentage" documents I have written, this one will not come to a certain conclusion. Its purpose is to outline the most likely theories for John's parentage and what concerns may exist with each.

Available Data
John is certainly known to have been born in Prussia and immigrated to Galveston, Texas, arriving on 25 Jun 1851. He would soon settle in Walker County and marry Emily Morse (Moss) on 17 Oct 1852. John and Emily had 3 children before apparently divorcing with John subsequently marrying Nancy McGraw on 07 Dec 1865.

Unfortunately, other data for John is sparse and conflicting. The four extant United States census records give three different birth years for John: 1812, 1815, and 1822 (two records). Logically, the 1822 date is the one that might seem more likely, for the following reasons:

- It is more likely for a man like John to immigrate at age 29 and start two families than at age 39.
- The only repetition in the data is for the year 1822.
- His wives were born in 1830 and 1843, so 1822 provides the smallest age difference (although 12 and 21 years are still fairly significant).

These are hardly compelling reasons, and so we are left with a great deal of uncertainty as to when John was born and who his parents were.

Theory #1
John was born as Johann Pokutta to Andreas Pokutta and Maria Spaych and was baptized on 01 Aug 1812 in Kujau, Schlesien, Prussia (now Kujawy, Poland).

This baptism record does not conflict with anything we know about John. It does however run contrary to the reasons stated above for favoring a later birth year for John.

In addition, the same database indicates a Johann Pokutta had 6 children with a woman named Margaretha from 1840 to 1848 in Pujau. With no other data points, it is very natural to assume the 1812 baptism record is for the Johann who would later marry Margaretha (the timing and location are perfect). And, this is the conclusion I would certainly draw.

This leaves two possibilities:

- This baptism record is not for our John Pegoda.
- Something happened to John's family (they all died, he left them, etc.) and he immigrated in 1851.

I have seen no evidence for or against the latter. But, given John's divorce from Emily with her keeping all of the children, it certainly sets up the possibility that John had also previously done this with his family in Prussia.

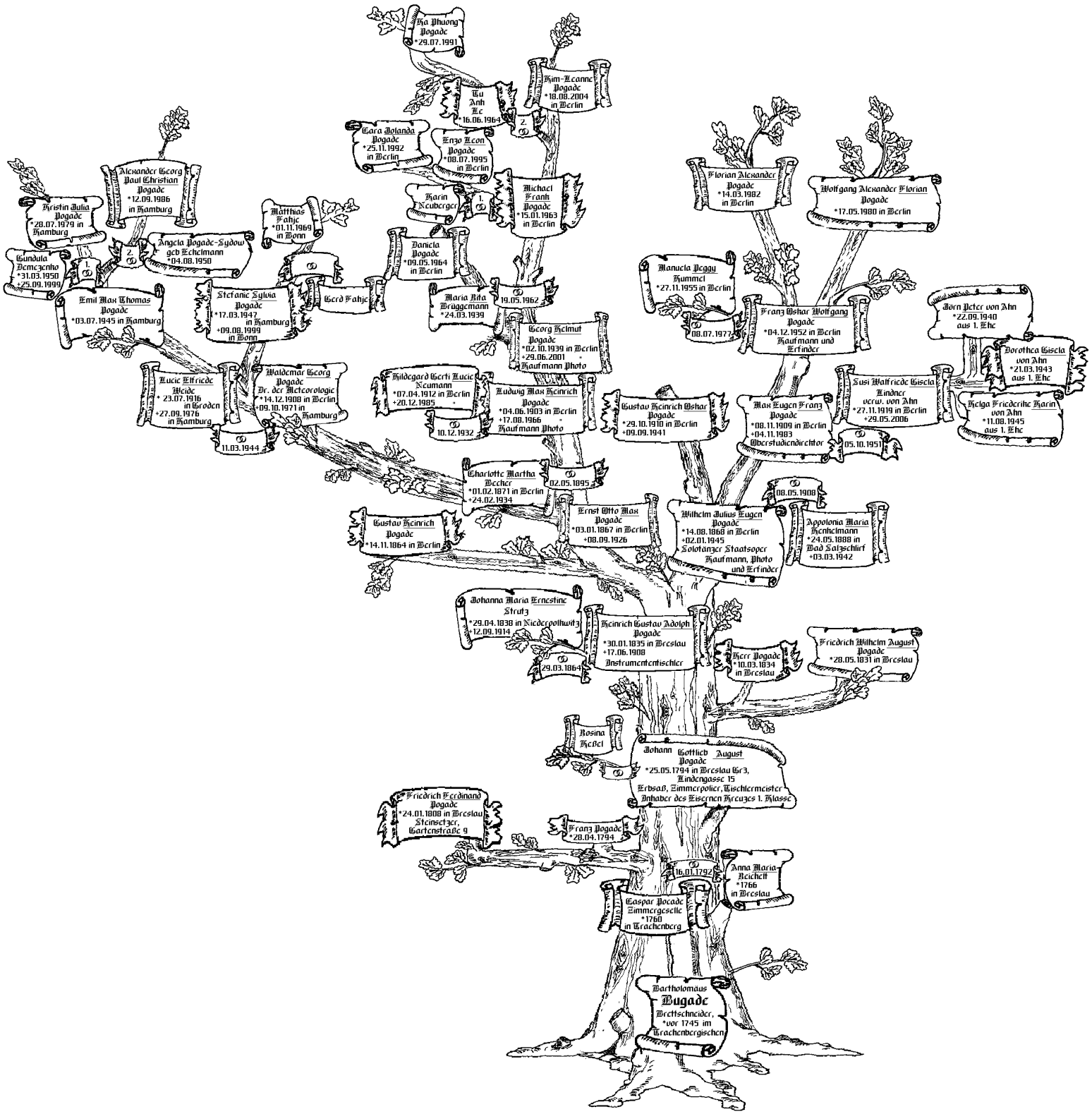
Theory #2
This is actually the original theory I had concerning John's parentage. The reason it has not progressed is it is purely based on similar surnames and nothing else. There is no concrete data to support it.

It is possible that he was a part of the Pogade family that originated near Ruda, Poland in the mid to late 1700s. A family tree sent to me by Wolfgang Pogade of Berlin, Germany (see next page) shows John may be a missing branch in the tree, possibly a long lost son or nephew of Johann Gottlieb August Pogade, born 25 May 1794.

Conclusion
The mystery of John's parentage endures and awaits further evidence. But, for the time being, I have accepted the 1812 Kujau baptism record as John's. I believe his family in Prussia died or he left them as he would later do with Emily Morse and their two or three surviving children. He then came to America at the age of 39 and started two families in succession, having children all the way up to 1881 at almost the age of 70. A DNA link to a descendant of John's siblings or his children with Margaretha would confirm this theory.

written by Kevin P. Thompson

Stammbaum der Familie Pogade


Ha Phuong Pogade *29.07.1991
Vu Anh Le *16.06.1964
Kim-Leanne Pogade *18.08.2004 in Berlin
Cara Yolanda Pogade *25.11.1992 in Berlin
Enzo Leon Pogade *08.07.1995 in Berlin
Karin Neuberger
Michael Frank Pogade *15.01.1963 in Berlin
Florian Alexander Pogade *14.03.1982 in Berlin
Wolfgang Alexander Florian Pogade *17.05.1980 in Berlin
Alexander Georg Paul Christian Pogade *12.09.1986 in Hamburg
Kristin Julia Pogade *28.07.1979 in Hamburg
Matthias Fahje *01.11.1969 in Bonn
Angela Pogade-Sydow geb Echelmann *04.08.1950
Gundula Demczenko *31.03.1950 *25.09.1999
Daniela Pogade *09.05.1964 in Berlin
Gerd Fahje
Manuela Peggy Hummel *27.11.1955 in Berlin
08.07.1977
Franz Oskar Wolfgang Pogade *04.12.1952 in Berlin Kaufmann und Erfinder
Jörn Peter von Ahn *22.09.1940 aus 1. Ehe
Dorothea Gisela von Ahn *21.03.1943 aus 1. Ehe
Helga Friederike Karin von Ahn *11.08.1945 aus 1. Ehe
Emil Max Thomas Pogade *03.07.1945 in Hamburg
Stefanie Sylvia Pogade *17.03.1947 in Hamburg *09.08.1999 in Bonn
Maria Rita Brüggemann *24.03.1939
19.05.1962
Georg Helmut Pogade *02.10.1939 in Berlin +29.06.2001 Kaufmann Photo
Lucie Elfriede Weide * 23.07.1916 in Grodno +27.09.1976 in Hamburg
11.03.1944
Waldemar Georg Pogade Dr. der Meteorologie *14.12.1908 in Berlin *09.10.1971 in Hamburg
Hildegard Gerti Lucie Neumann *07.04.1912 in Berlin +20.12.1985
10.12.1932
Ludwig Max Heinrich Pogade *04.06.1903 in Berlin +17.08.1966 Kaufmann Photo
Gustav Heinrich Oskar Pogade *29.10.1910 in Berlin +09.09.1941
Susi Waltfriede Gisela Lindner verw. von Ahn *27.11.1919 in Berlin +29.05.2006
Max Eugen Franz Pogade *08.11.1909 in Berlin +04.11.1983 Oberstudiendirektor
05.10.1951
Charlotte Martha Becher *01.02.1871 in Berlin +24.02.1934
02.05.1895
08.05.1908
Gustav Heinrich Pogade *14.11.1864 in Berlin
Ernst Otto Max Pogade *03.01.1867 in Berlin +08.09.1926
Wilhelm Julius Eugen Pogade *14.08.1868 in Berlin +02.01.1945 Solotänzer Staatsoper Kaufmann, Photo und Erfinder
Apolonia Maria Hentschmann *24.05.1888 in Bad Salzschlirf +03.03.1942
Johanna Maria Ernestine Strutz *29.04.1838 in Niederpoltwitz +12.09.1914
29.03.1864
Heinrich Gustav Adolph Pogade *30.01.1835 in Breslau +17.06.1908 Instrumententischler
Herr Pogade *10.03.1834 in Breslau
Friedrich Wilhelm August Pogade *28.05.1831 in Breslau
Rosina Hebel
Johann Gottlieb August Pogade *25.05.1794 in Breslau Gr3, Lindengasse 15 Erbsaß, Zimmerpolier, Tischlermeister Inhaber des Eisernen Kreuzes 1. Klasse
Friedrich Ferdinand Pogade *24.01.1808 in Breslau Steinsetzer, Gartenstraße 9
Franz Pogade *28.04.1794
16.01.1792
Anna Maria Reichelt *1766 in Breslau
Caspar Pocade Zimmergeselle *1760 in Trachenberg
Bartholomäus Bugade Brettschneider, *vor 1745 im Trachenbergischen

Family tree of the Pogade family from near Ruda, Poland (created by Wolfgang Pogade of Berlin, Germany).